

RIGHT HANDED FOLKS

WHY ARE THEY SO VERY LARGELY IN THE MAJORITY?

There Are Two Factors in the Problem, an Inherited Tendency and Constant Practice—The Origin of the Innate Proclivity.

That the great majority of persons use the right hand with greater skill than the left is doubtless due to two influences—an innate proclivity and constant practice. The preference shown by most infants at the age of one year for the use of the right hand proves that there is an inherited tendency. Further evidence of it is found in the greater ease with which any entirely new act is performed by the right than by the left hand. Training, however, is an important factor. A mature person, having lost the right hand by accident, can achieve wonders with the other if he only exercises patience, perseverance and a strong will.

The more mysterious of the two factors in this problem is the inborn tendency. How did it arise? There are exceptions to the rule. Perhaps two out of every hundred babies are left handed. But when you stop to think of it the natural inclination of the other ninety-eight is remarkable. A great many physiologists have speculated in regard to its cause without reaching any conclusion upon which all could agree.

Dr. George M. Gould says in the Popular Science Monthly that right handedness is so thoroughly ingrained in human nature that it must have been partially developed in the savage ancestors of the race. Primitive man, in his opinion, must have felt a definite need for the exercise of his right hand in preference to his left, and that necessity must have been recognized and obeyed for a long period continuously. The impulse could not well have dictated his habits in eating, for knives and forks are of recent origin, the modern gun had not been invented, and writing was practically unknown. Moreover, in such operations as chipping arrowheads, weaving baskets and wielding clubs, bows and arrows it could not have mattered much which hand was employed.

When warfare had been carried to such a stage of advancement as to involve the use of a shield, however, that object was probably held on the left side in order to protect the heart. Then as a matter of convenience the right arm was left free for the more active function of fighting with spear and sword, and with habitual exercise came special skill. An attendant phenomenon was a finer organization of that particular center in the brain which controlled these movements and which was situated in the left half of the organ. The brain is the real seat of all dexterity, and something takes place there in correspondence with external efficiency. With an increased use of the right hand, Dr. Gould thinks, there must have been greater demands upon the right eye, because vision must precede the order to strike or to give peaceful signals. In this way there may have been developed a keener power of vision in the right eye than in the left. Dr. Gould assumes that there was and declares that "right handed people are right eyed" and that in their brains the center of vision is on the left side, in close proximity to that governing the right arm.

While civilization was yet at a low level communication was carried on, especially with strangers, largely in the sign language. Barter laid the foundations of arithmetic and called in to play the digits. The preference already given to the right hand in battle may have guided men in the choice for this service and also in official and social ceremonies. Computation, Dr. Gould points out, was an intellectual process which was conducted in the speech center of the brain. Nature was compelled to take sides in locating the latter, and she placed it to the left of the middle. Dr. Gould thinks that the choice was governed by the employment of the right hand for giving signals. So intimately related are the functions of speech and vision and the control of the muscular efforts with the right arm that action would be quicker if the cerebral centers controlling them were closely associated.

Before discussing the cause of left handedness Dr. Gould calls attention to the fact that with right handed people the left hand is occasionally called upon to perform a task of greater importance than its mate. In eating the fork is used more than the knife. In playing a violin or violoncello the fingering is done with the left hand and the bowing with the right. It is suggested that some of these operations may result from the superiority of the right eye. Perhaps the latter can watch and guide them better when they are performed with the left than with the right hand.

Left handedness is considered by Dr. Gould an inheritance from ancestors, savage or civilized, who were obliged by some misfortune to abandon the use of the right hand. An even more influential injury, he thinks, would have been as to the right eye. With the cultivation of skill with the left hand, he believes, there followed a change in the organization of the brain. Owing to disease the center, which had formerly controlled action, lost its vigor and that on the opposite side acquired increased power. Dr. Gould says that the speech center was also transferred from the left side to the right of the brain in consequence. In the transmission of the cerebral peculiarity to offspring he finds the key to the manifestation of left handedness at a tender age. —New York Tribune.

Experience is a jewel, and it need be so, for it is often purchased at an inflated rate. —Shakespeare.

CATHERINE THE GREAT.

An Odd Woman Was This Empress of the Russians.

A recent writer says of Catherine the Great, empress of Russia from the year 1762 to 1796:

"She rose at 6 and lit her own fire. Her table was ideally simple. From the reproach of overeating and overdrinking she was free. Though she could not sing a note, she and Prince Dashkoff, who could sing no better, occasionally performed in a concert. A sudden burst of the most exalted and ridiculous discordant tones was the consequence, one seconding the other, with scientific shrugs and all the solemn, self complacent airs and grimaces of musicians. From this perhaps she passed to a cat concert and imitated the purring of a cat in the most droll and ludicrous manner, always taking care to add appropriate, half comic, half sentimental words, which she invented for the occasion, or else, spitting like a cat in a passion, with her back up, she suddenly boxed the first person in her way, making up her hand into a paw and mewing outrageously."

When playing whist one night Catherine could not get her page to answer the bell. "After she had rung twice, again without effect, she left the room, looking daggers, and did not reappear for a considerable time. The company supposed that the unfortunate page was destined to Siberia or at least the knout. As a matter of fact, Catherine on entering the antechamber found the page, like his betters, busy at whist."

"When the bell rang he happened to have so interesting a hand that he could not make up his mind to quit it. Now, what did the empress do? She dispatched the page on her errand and then quietly sat down to hold his cards until he should return."

THE AGRA DIAMOND.

Odd Manner in Which It Was Smuggled Out of India.

Like many other diamonds, the Agra diamond has had adventures. It gets its name from the fact that it was taken at the battle of Agra in 1526 by the Emperor Baber, who was the founder of the Mogul empire in India. The Marquis of Donegall was in Agra in 1857, when the diamond was taken from the king of Delhi. Donegall was at the time engaged as secretary and belonged to the same regiment as the young officer who obtained possession of the diamond. It was resolved among them to smuggle it home to England rather than give it up and to share in the loot money. The question arose how were they to get it home.

No one seemed able to hit upon a method that would be likely to meet with success until the last evening previous to the departure of the regiment. During the course of dinner the youngest subaltern suddenly jumped up and said: "I have it. We will conceal the diamond in a horse ball and make the horse swallow it." This met with general approbation, a ball was secured, the inside scooped out, the diamond inserted, the end stopped up and the horse made to swallow it.

When the regiment reached the port of embarkation the horse was taken ill and had to be shot. The diamond was taken from his stomach and brought over to England. It was subsequently sold to the Duke of Brunswick, and since then it has been recut from a forty-six carat stone to thirty-one and a half carats in order to get rid of the black spots in it, and it is the most perfect and brilliant diamond of a rose pink color.

Andrew Johnson's Writing.

The letters of President Taylor are rare, but perhaps those of Andrew Johnson are the rarest, as he did but little of his own writing. His son conducted most of his correspondence and signed his father's name to the letters. It is related that one reason why President Johnson wrote so little was owing to an accident which happened to him when he was working at his trade as tailor. One day a tailor's heavy iron goose fell on his arm, so injuring that member that he found it extremely difficult to indulge in penmanship thereafter. Andrew Johnson was the poorest writer among the presidents as well as the rarest. His handwriting was very much of a scrawl and can scarcely be deciphered by the average reader.

Natural Cross of Pearls.

Some curious things have been found in the briny deep, but one of the oddest is an ecclesiastical emblem made of pearls which was washed ashore on the coast of West Australia. There are nine good sized gems in this natural curiosity. These have been joined together to form a perfect Latin cross. Seven pearls of equal size comprise the upright and two more form the transverse piece. The joining has been the work of nature. The odd prize, discovered in a pearl oyster, is said to be worth at least \$50,000. It is called the Great Southern Cross pearl.

Both.

Base—And of which variety is your wife, the clinging vine or the self assertive? Case—A little of both. When she wants a new dress or a new hat she generally begins in the clinging vine role. If that doesn't bring the money, then she changes to the self assertive, and—well, she invariably gets the dress or the hat.

Conclusion.

"Why does he wish to marry her?" "He says people should marry their opposites."

"Why, they are both dark."

"Yes, but he hasn't a cent, and she has a million dollars." —Pittsburg Post.

If you get angry with a man or woman, make up your mind what you are going to say and then don't say it.

SHRINES IN MOROCCO.

Why Some People Look Upon Them With Suspicion.

A traveler says that Christians in Morocco look with suspicion on the shrines of Mohammedan saints in that country. He tells the following story: "Once upon a time a boy was traveling through the country, and as night came on he found himself near a white-washed tomb. Knocking at the door of the shrine, he asked for a meal and a bed. When the next day dawned he was about to continue his journey, but the keeper of the shrine besought him to remain in order to help him keep the shrine and collect the offerings of the faithful. The youth said that he must first consult his parents, and the elder man bade him take his ass and seek advice of his parents and return. The boy took the ass and rode away, but he had not accomplished half the journey before the ass fell sick and died. Then the boy knew not what to do nor where to turn. But when he had considered the circumstances of his case a brilliant idea flashed into his mind.

"Having dug a pit and cast the ass therein, he piled great stones over it, whitening them with lime, and set a white flag above, saying to all who passed by, 'This is the tomb of St. So-and-so.' Then worshippers came from every side, alms were poured in and offerings showered upon him. The keeper of the former shrine lost his customers and came to visit the new saint. He when the crowd had gone approached the young shrine keeper. 'I ask thee by Allah,' said the old man, 'who is this saint of thine and what manner of thing is buried here?'

"I will not deceive thee, but will tell thee the truth," returned the youth. 'My saint who is buried here is none other than thy beast, even the carcass of thine own ass. And now, pray, who is thy saint and who in truth is buried in the shrine thou keepest?' 'I will not deceive thee, but will tell thee the truth,' replied the old man. 'My saint is the father of thy saint.'

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

We all make too much of our difficulties.

Few mysteries are as inexplicable as the one of how some people live.

When a man brags about himself it is a sign other people don't brag about him.

A mistake many men make is being a cat and imagining themselves popular with the mice.

A man discovers that his wife is getting old looking ten years before he makes the discovery about himself.

If some people would work hard and earn \$10,000 some one would walk up and, taking it away from them, tell them they had no business with that much money.

The trouble is that, when a man is told he looks ten years younger than he is, even that leaves him ten or twenty years older than he wants to be. —Athenian Globe.

Kitchens in the Tropics.

The kitchens of tropical countries, such as are to be found in our Spanish-American lands, are like cells from the thickness of the stone walls—often two or three feet deep—and the projecting, omnipresent veranda, which gives a grateful shade and which looks out on a court. The cell resemblance is enhanced by the iron bars at the windows and the heavy double doors, which look as if they could resist a siege. The walls are whitewashed, and the floors are of tiles. The dining room is often separated from this room by a long staircase. Outside the kitchen in the court will stand table and closets to supplement the scant furniture of the small, hot apartment with a furnace-like fire.

Making an Old Pen as Good as New.

"My pen is spoiled, and I have no other," said the bookkeeper.

The machinist happened to be in the office, and he took the pen and held it over the gas jet for thirty seconds. "You can make an old pen as good as new," he said, "by holding it over a flame like this for half a minute and afterward dipping it in cold water." He dipped the hot pen in cold water as he spoke, and it sizzled slightly. "Now try it," he said.

The bookkeeper tried the pen and exclaimed joyously, "By George, it's as good as new again."

Two Expressive Quotations.

Some sentences are like autographs; you feel that they must have been written by these people; no one else could have written them.

Such is this, by Talleyrand: "To succeed in the world it is much more necessary to possess the penetration to discover who is a fool than to discover who is a clever man."

And Napoleon's character is drawn full length in this sentence remark of his: "I command or I am silent."

Love of Gain.

To cure us of our immoderate love of gain we should seriously consider how many goods there are that money will not purchase, and these the best, and how many evils there are that money will not remedy, and these the worst. —Colton.

Whom He Was.

Mrs. Peck (contemptuously).—What are you anyhow, a man or a woman? Henry Peck (bitterly).—A man, my dear. If I were a mouse I'd have you up on that table yelling for help right now! —Exchange.

Seeing and Believing.

"You don't agree, then, that 'seeing is believing'?"

"Not much! I see some people every day that I never could believe." —Philadelphia Ledger.

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Notice is hereby given that the accounts of the undersigned, the surviving executor of the last will and testament of Sarah J. Demarest, deceased, will be audited and stated by the Surrogate and reported for settlement to the Orphans Court of the County of Essex, on Saturday, the sixth day of May next.

Dated March 20, 1905. JAMES G. DEMAREST, JONES MONTGOMERY, Executor.

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